

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00076 080704Z

16

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 /019 W

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R 071616Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1377

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD AFSP PFOR

SUBJ: NEW LISBON CHANCERY

DEPT PASS FBO, EUR/EX AND EUR/IB

REF: (A) LISBON 5689 (B) GEISEL-GARON TELCON OF JAN 6

1. AFTER EMBASSY INFORMED VIA REF B THAT FBO REP MIGHT VISIT LISBON SOON WITH INTENTION OF LOOKING AT BUILDING F (GRAO PARA BUILDING), EMBASSY CONTACTED CHAIRMAN OF GRAO PARA PRESENTLY IN RIO DE JANEIRO, TO ASK IF BUILDING WAS STILL AVAILABLE. EMBASSY HAD EARLIER BEEN INFORMED THAT RANK XEROX, SOREFAME AND OTHER COMPANIES WERE INTERESTED IN RENTING SPACE IN BUILDING.

2. CHAIRMAN (MRS. FERNANDA PIRES DA SILVA) STATED THAT BUILDING STILL UNOCCUPIED AND NAMED LAWYER WHO REPRESENTS COMPANY. SHE ALSO ADDED: QTE FOUR EMPLOYEES AT THE GRAO PARA HEAD OFFICE (IN LISBON) HAVE TAKEN OVER THE HEAD OFFICE WITHOUT ANY LEGAL AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER, ONLY BECAUSE THEY HEARD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WE WERE CARRYING ON WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY...UNQTE.

3. AS STATED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, GRAO PARA APPEARS TO BE IN SAME ECONOMIC TROUBLE AS TORRALTA, ANOTHER TOURIST-ORIENTED COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT. GRAO PARA WAS UNABLE TO PAY 13TH MONTH AT CHRISTMAS AND SOME WORKERS THEREBY OCCUPIED COMPANY HEADQUARTERS. THESE HEADQUARTERS ARE NOT RPT NOT LOCATED IN BUILDING F WHICH STILL REMAINS EMPTY.

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4. EMBASSY AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY WORKERS WOULD TAKE OVER
GRAO PARA HEADQUARTERS BECAUSE OF NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED WITH
EMBASSY. RATHER, WE BELIEVE THAT FAILURE OF GRAO PARA TO MEET
PAYROLL COMMITMENTS IS MAIN CAUSE.
SCOTT

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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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